

QRB's, the volume of qualified redevelopment bonds issued would be constrained by the existing State bond volume caps established under section 146 of the Internal Revenue Code. Local governments wishing to issue qualified redevelopment bonds for brownfield sites would have to compete with other issuers for authority to issue private activity bonds under the State volume cap.

Mr. Speaker, vacant, polluted brownfield sites have become a serious problem for our country. They have blighted many of our communities in both financial and environmental terms, and they have contributed to urban sprawl. Restoring and redeveloping our country's brownfield sites will be a difficult task—it will take the cooperation of both the public and private sectors. The financial assistance provided in this bill would be a valuable tool in the environmental and economic redevelopment of America. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors of this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 1996*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1; "no" on rollcall No. 2; "yes" on rollcall No. 3; and "no" on rollcall No. 4.

#### BOSNIA AND THE FUTURE OF NATO

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 1996*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the new Secretary General of NATO, Javier Solana, wrote a piece in the Washington Post on December 24, 1995, entitled "In Bosnia, a Defining Moment." I was impressed with his analysis, particularly concerning the cooperation of 16 non-NATO nations with the 16 Members of NATO in support of the Bosnia Implementation Force. As the Secretary General states "[W]e have the opportunity not only to end the war in Bosnia but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe."

I comment the article to the attention of my colleagues. The text follows:

[From the Washington Post; Dec. 24, 1995]

(By Javier Solana)

IN BOSNIA, A DEFINING MOMENT

Much of the debate that preceded last week's deployment of a NATO-led peace implementation force into Bosnia centered on whether the stakes involved justified sending the young men and women of this alliance into harm's way. On this point, the response of our 16 member nations has been clear: We simply had to act in order to bring the worst conflict in Europe since World War II to a definitive halt.

The alternative would not only have been to condemn the people of Bosnia to further suffering but to risk seeing the conflict spread and perhaps confront us with the need

to intervene in a shooting war on a much larger scale. Because NATO nations on both sides of the Atlantic remember all too well the price paid in 1914 and 1939 because of Western blunders and blindness, they were determined not to miss this opportunity to stop a war in the heart of Europe when it was in their power to do so.

What has received less attention in the international Force (IFOR) debate are the profound implications for NATO of this operation, which is the first ground force "out-of-area" deployment in our 46-year history. For those who until recently considered the organization a Cold War relic, the coalition that our supreme allied commander Europe, Gen. George A. Joulwan, is assembling must seem astonishing indeed.

Thus far, 16 non-NATO nations have joined the 16 allies in "Operation Joint Endeavor." These include many of our former adversaries from Central and Eastern Europe who now wish to join NATO, neutral countries such as Sweden and Finland, non-European nations such as Egypt and Pakistan and, most notably, Russia. Still other nations, such as Austria and Switzerland, have broken with tradition and taboo to cooperate with NATO to facilitate the largest and most complex movement of forces by land, sea and air in Europe in 50 years.

Clearly, something is happening in Europe today that transcends the Bosnian situation. Underlying the desire of so many nations to contribute to this NATO-led operation is a consciousness that a defining moment in the post-Cold War security order has arrived. This is not a moment or an opportunity that has come about by accident. NATO has worked quietly but intensively over the past two years to prepare the new democracies in our Partnership for Peace program for such joint operations, just as we have endeavored to build a truly cooperative relationship with the Russian Federation.

Thus in Bosnia we have an opportunity not only to end a war in the Balkans but to lay the foundations for an enduring structure of peace across a now-undivided and democratic Europe.

I am keenly aware that it is one thing to proclaim such a lofty ideal and quite another for our troops to face the grim reality of a Balkan winter under trying and dangerous circumstances. Throughout history, it has been ever thus—it has been to the lonely foot soldier to realize the visions of leaders and politicians.

But thanks to their capacity to learn from the mistakes of the first half of this century, two generations of Europeans and North Americans have not had to ask their sons and daughters to sacrifice themselves in another world war. They have not had to do so—and current and future generations will not have to do so—largely because NATO exists to keep the peace.

Now that a new NATO is moving boldly to meet the post-Cold War security challenges of a new Europe, our thoughts should go to our young soldiers of peace who will spend their Christmas truly spreading the season's message of hope to their fellow man.

#### H.R. 2843, VETERANS' INSURANCE REFORM ACT OF 1995

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 1996*

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation which will update and make changes to two of the VA insurance pro-

grams—the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance [SGLI] and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance [VGLI]. My distinguished colleagues, SONNY MONTGOMERY, TERRY EVERETT, LANE EVANS, and CHRIS SMITH, join me in introducing this bill.

The SGLI Program provides group life insurance coverage to persons on active duty in the military service, Ready Reservists, members of the uniformed services, cadets and midshipmen of the four service academies and members of the Reserve Office Training Corps. Although it is a program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, this program is actually administered by the Prudential Insurance Co.

The VGLI Program is a program of post-separation insurance which provides for the conversion of servicemen's group life insurance to a 5-year term policy. Like Servicemen's Group, Veterans' Group is supervised by the Department of Veterans Affairs but administered by the Office of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance.

This bill would make quite a few changes, including setting the automatic coverage under SGLI at \$200,000 from the current \$100,000; allowing the Secretary the authority to terminate an individual's insurance if premiums are not paid within 60 days; and renaming the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program to Servicemember's Group Life Insurance.

Additional provisions include merging the Retired Reserve Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance Programs; extending VGLI lifetime coverage to members of the Ready Reserve of a uniformed service; providing for an individual, upon separation from the military, to change to the SGLI Program or choose as commercial policy; and eliminating the 5-year VGLI renewal period.

Mr. Speaker, we already know that these are great insurance programs and are very popular with veterans and active duty personnel. The changes offered in this legislation will improve the programs for current policy holders and future participants.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

#### A CHAMPION OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 4, 1996*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Seattle Councilman Sam Smith who passed away November 16, 1995. Sam Smith was born July 21, 1922, on a farm just outside of Gibsland, LA. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942, was assigned to a post in Seattle, and achieved the rank of warrant officer. After World War II, he married his high school sweetheart, Marion, and together they raised six children. Sam earned a degree in social science from Seattle University in 1951, and a degree in economics from the University of Washington in 1952. He entered politics in 1956, and was elected to the Washington State Legislature in 1958, representing the 37th Legislative District of Washington for five terms until 1967. Sam then was elected to the Seattle City Council. He was the